

**Waltham Public Schools
Retirees' Newsletter
Fall 2019**



Congratulations to the new retirees

The Retirees' Corner wishes to welcome these most recent retirees.

Pamela Aucoin	Northeast, paraprofessional
Ann Coleman	Northeast, paraprofessional
Dottie Davis	Business Office, head bookkeeper
Richard Yerardi	Fitzgerald, Maintenance

A Family Tradition

Below is a list of more parents and their adult children who have worked in the Waltham Public Schools. As stated in the February 2019 newsletter, our apologies to anyone we missed.

Parent(s)	Sons and Daughters
Kelly Navarro	Alyssa Navarro Cincotta
Marlene Caterino	Ann Ciccarelli
John "Skip" Bandini	Paul Bandini
Chris Salvo	Brittany Salvo

Congratulations to our former students who have been recently hired

Kevin Marston	Career and Technical Education	Culinary
	WHS Class of 2012 McDevitt	Whittemore
 Brittany Salvo -	 Kennedy Middle School	 Health
	WHS Class of 2014 Kennedy	MacArthur

(There are a few others but we haven't heard back from them regarding their school information at the time of this newsletter's being sent.)



Thanks for the Feedback

Our thanks to the following retirees who took a few minutes to email their positive feedback on our July newsletter!

Susan Jacobs
Marilyn O'Neill

Peter Baldassari
Mary Darcy

Jonna Burns
Tom Dumas



Retirees in the News

Steve Goodwin is still teaching (and with an intriguing topic)! On September 26, at the Waltham Public Library, Steve shared his research in an illustrated presentation and question and answer segment on three historically significant and/or notorious Waltham homicide cases, one is from the 1920s, one from the 70s, and one from the last decade.



What's Up with Graduates of the Waltham Public Schools?

As teachers, I'm sure we all wonder what has become of our former students. John Arone is one of these students. John graduated from Waltham High School in 1998. (He attended Bright and South.) He continued his education at St. Anselm's College in New Hampshire graduating in 2002.

Later, John became a Massachusetts State Trooper. When asked why he wanted a career in law enforcement, John's reply was, "I wanted every day to be different. Most importantly, however, I wanted to help people." Two of John's most exceptional achievements were saving the life of an 8- day- old baby after the infant stopped breathing. In addition, John assisted in the delivery of a baby girl in Cambridge.

John also, working at his fulltime job, joined with his brother, Michael, in the Arone Brothers Development Company.

On a personal note, John is married to Marissa. They are the proud parents of a son, Maddox.

John has excelled in his professional and personal life. He continues to contribute in the work force and as a responsible citizen.

As teachers, we take pride in the accomplishments of our students.

Ellen MacDonald

Norman MacDonald



Those listed below were inducted into the Waltham High School Athletic Hall of Fame at an event held October 11, 2019

Joe Burgoyne	Class of 1973	Benefactor
Samantha Dutile	Class of 1993	Basketball, Volleyball, Softball
Matt Fratto	Class of 2000	Football, Basketball, Lacrosse
Zenith Marimon	Class of 1988	Baseball
Darren Marcou	Class of 1983	Baseball, Basketball, Football
2005 Boys Lacrosse Team State Finalists		



On a sad note, over the past few months, we have lost more former friends and colleagues –

Patricia MacDonald	Business Office
Peter Krause	Grade 6 Banks
James Galloway	Career and Tech Ed Middle, High, Vocational
Marjorie Murphy	Food Services
Gloria Grumney	Library Media Services
William Nolan	Career and Tech Ed, Director
Joan Kelleher	Middle School Home Economics



We would like you to mention these newsletters to your former colleagues whenever you connect. Ask if they received these. If not, might you share their email addresses so we can reach out to them too with all our news? Contact us at retireescorner@gmail.com

Are you aware of any former students who could be highlighted as you just read about John Arone? Contact us at retireescorner@gmail.com .

Some of you attended the Waltham Public Schools. Was there a teacher that was particularly important in your life? Would you be willing to write a few words about that influence for a future newsletter?

Some of you might want to reflect on former colleagues. Send us your memories to retireescorner@gmail.com. Later, we hope to reach out to the wider Waltham community so others can share their fond memories.

***A few facts about the namesakes of the schools that no longer functioning
as schools***

(info mostly from Wikipedia and Waltham Historical Society)

Thomas Hill Elementary School

now the Stanley Senior Center on the Main Street and Heard Street



Thomas Hill was an American Unitarian clergyman, mathematician, scientist, philosopher, and educator.

He was born on January 7, 1818 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He earned his A.B. and D.Div. from Harvard University in 1843 and 1845 respectively, where was also an honorary member of Hasty Pudding. He was subsequently ordained pastor of First Parish in Waltham in 1845.

At the death of Horace Mann in 1859, he was assigned to the Presidency of Antioch College, and held that office until the Civil War forced the College to close in 1860. Hill was president of Harvard from 1862 to 1868.

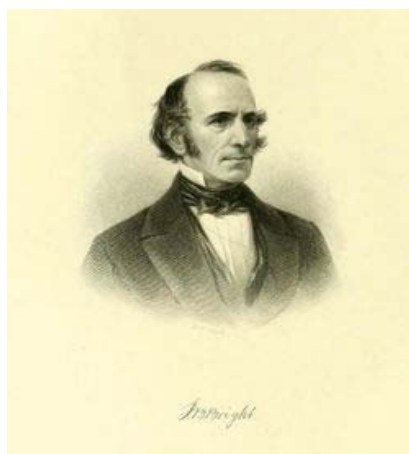
He is credited with designing scientific instruments, one of which calculated eclipses. He died at the home of his son-in-law, Dr. Alfred Worcester, November 21, 1891.

His obituary read - "During the fourteen years in Waltham, (which he described as the happiest years of his life), he was on the School Committee, for most of the time chairman. He threw himself into his work with great zeal. His ideas seemed at first to be revolutionary; but finally, the town came to him. So eminent an authority as Dr. Peabody says, "Under his direction the Waltham Schools became model schools and a center of educational enlightenment for neighboring communities."

His home in Waltham, Massachusetts, where he began his career, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Jonathan Bright Elementary School

now home of Waltham Historical Society and city archives
corner of Bright Street and Grove Street



Jonathan Brown Bright was born in Waltham, April 23, 1800. He was the youngest of the children of John Bright who settled in Waltham in 1776.

From 1817-1824 he was a traveling salesman and spent the next 25 years in New York as a clerk and then a broker in the firm Merle, Bright & Co. He returned to Waltham and remained there from 1849 until his death in on December 17, 1879. He built a larger home near the family homestead on Main Street near Beaver Brook. He was known for his generosity to a variety of local causes and fellow citizens. He was very active in community issues and was a vital member on the committee for the established Mount Feake cemetery. After the Civil War, he was active in the efforts to educate the emancipated slaves and invest them with the rights and privileges of American citizens.

“I remember,” said the late Rev. Thomas Hill, “that one of the earliest impressions I received of him was from the chairman of the Board of Assessors, who told me that he had just had a peculiar experience. Mr. Bright had come in after the town had been assessed and said, ‘You have not made my tax large enough; add so many thousand dollars to my personal property.’ It revealed the character of the man; it was both his integrity and his public spirit that made him thus voluntarily assume a larger proportion of the public expenses.”

Says Dr. Hill, “He gave time, labor and money to many good causes, public and private; and he gave with kindly, cheerful spirit; yet so unostentatiously and so wisely that men’s attention was more taken up with the results of the action than with the action itself.”

Ezra Fitch Elementary School

currently mothballed at corner of Ash Street and Crescent Street



EZRA C. FITCH, RETIRING PRESIDENT AND
CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Born in 1846, Ezra Fitch was a descendant of Thomas Fitch, who had been governor of Connecticut and Ebenezer Fitch, who had been President of Williams College. He attended public school in Worcester, where he learned to be a watchmaker.

He worked for Robbins, Appleton & Co, beginning in the Boston office, then to New York as a traveling salesman, and within two years was the manager there.

In 1883, he came to the Waltham Watch Factory as the General Manager and served as President from 1886 to 1923.

He held multiple patents related to pocket and wrist watches, over a time period that spanned nearly 57 years.

He died in 1929.

“Our” Ezra Fitch should not to be confused with the first hit in Wikipedia for Ezra Hasbrouck Fitch (1865-1930) who was the co-founder of the brand Abercrombie & Fitch and is credited with the introduction of Mahjong to the US!!

Update on Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision

(first 2 pages forwarded by Bill Nolan)

(WEP is short for the Windfall Elimination Provision and GPO is short for the Government Pension Offset. Both could adversely affect how much money you'll receive in retirement — and your Social Security checks may be a lot smaller because of them.)



MASS RETIREES

The Online Voice of the Retired Public Employee

Dear Mass Retirees Member,

As you know, our Association has spent the past several years working feverishly to pass federal legislation reforming the Social Security WEP and GPO laws. While each member of Massachusetts Congressional Delegation supports our efforts, we have worked most closely with Springfield Congressman Richard Neal. In fact, we have no bigger advocate on Capitol Hill for public retirees than Richie Neal!

With Mr. Neal now chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, he has recommitted his efforts and that of his office to craft a new WEP reform proposal - one that we believe can advance through the Congressional process and become law.

While reform of the WEP might seem straightforward, it has proven to be a very difficult issue to resolve. After 36 years of attempts, we cannot afford anymore false starts.

To that end, Chairman Neal and the Committee's ranking Republican Member, Kevin Brady (R-TX), are focused on creating a new WEP reform proposal that not only provides relief to current and future public retirees, but also addresses the concerns that arose from previous reform attempts in recent years.

Below is an open letter from Chairman Neal to all Mass Retirees members. He not only confirms his support for WEP Reform, but also commits to filing the new proposal this summer.

For members impacted by the GPO, efforts to reform spousal Social Security benefits will be addressed through separate legislation. Despite our attempts to keep the two issues together in a single bill, we do not have national consensus as to how to best address the GPO. That said, we will not give up on our work to fix both the WEP AND

GPO.

We will update our members on the specifics of this new proposal once we have additional news.

Thank you for your support!

Most sincerely,

Shawn Duhamel
Legislative Director



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

CHAIRMAN RICHARD E. NEAL

Dear Mass Retirees:

I'm pleased to provide an update about Social Security and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that is affecting so many individuals and families in my congressional district, throughout Massachusetts, and across the nation.

As the proud Representative of Massachusetts' First Congressional District and Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over Social Security, addressing the WEP is a top priority for me. And I know how important this is for you, because I hear from Massachusetts workers and retirees every day about the WEP problem and the need for reform.

Public employees such as teachers, police officers, firefighters, and municipal employees are indispensable members of our communities. I firmly believe that it is of the utmost importance to protect these dedicated individuals' retirement benefits. Originally, the WEP was intended to equalize the Social Security benefit formula for workers with similar earnings histories, both inside and outside of the Social Security system. However, in practice, it has unfairly penalized some public employees. We must provide relief for Massachusetts employees and retirees who are affected by this provision.

As you know, I've long been active in this policy area. For the last several years, I was the lead Democratic cosponsor of an earlier bill intended to address the WEP and treat public servants fairly by paying them benefits proportional to their contributions to the Social Security system. However, subsequent analysis of that bill revealed that while some public employees would have received higher Social Security benefits, others would have received lower benefits than under current law. As a result, that earlier bill could not move forward in the legislative process. I am committed to avoiding benefit cuts in Social Security. Moving ahead, it is essential to understand the full impact on all beneficiaries before advancing any potential changes to Social Security.

I am developing a revised bill to provide meaningful WEP relief to current retirees and public employees while treating all workers fairly, which I will introduce this summer. As my staff and I develop this legislation, it is with an eye toward gaining support from my colleagues and having a positive impact on retirees. I continue to welcome your input as we move ahead in the process, and I look forward to sharing more information as it becomes available.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure that the voices of the Bay State's retired public employees are heard in Congress. Please know that I remain intently focused, as you are, on fixing the WEP as soon as possible and ensuring that public employees in Massachusetts – and all across the nation – can retire with the security and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress
First Congressional District of Massachusetts
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives



UPDATE

Representative Richard Neal introduces new legislation to address Social Security WEP offset
October 1, 2019

On Friday, September 27, Ways and Means Committee Chair and MA Congressman Richard Neal introduced H.R. 4540, the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act. This bill seeks to fix the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) for future retirees as well as provide meaningful relief to current retirees who are penalized by WEP. By establishing a new, more fair formula, this legislation provides Social Security benefits in proportion to the share of the worker's earnings that were covered for Social Security purposes. This provision is paired with a benefit guarantee ensuring no benefit cuts relative to the current law for all current and future retired public servants. Current WEP retirees would receive a \$150 monthly relief payment.

This bill is welcomed news for the nearly 2 million retired public servants across the country including almost 73,000 in the Commonwealth of MA. "Public employees like firefighters, teachers and police officers should not miss out on the Social Security benefits they earned over decades of hard work. With this legislation, these valued members of our communities will have greater retirement security and peace of mind," said Chairman Neal.

An overview of the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act can be found [here](#), and a section by section summary can be found [here](#). Please join the Association in thanking Chairman Neal and Representative Kevin Brady of Texas for their leadership in moving solutions forward for retired public employees.



Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

